(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of attack on foreign tourists and women in various parts of the country, particularly at the tourists spots, are on the rise;

(b) whether Government would take stern action against the persons involved to check such incidents in consultation with the State Governments; and

(c) whether Government would consider to make a stringent law to ensure safety of the women tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists and women is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the State/UTs. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other.

Ministry of Tourism in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, has framed guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organization(s) comprising Ex–Servicemen, for the safety and security of tourists. The guidelines have been sent to State Government and Union Territory Administrations.

Helicopter tourism in country

2467. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce Helicopter tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether there is great demand of Helicopter tourism in hilly States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to connect all the tourist spots in the country with Helicopter services?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Ministry of Tourism does not have any scheme to introduce Helicopter Tourism in the country. However, several States have taken initiatives to improve connectivity of tourist spots in the remote and hilly areas by introducing helicopter services either through the Government or Private Sector Participation.

Foreign tourist arrival at India

†2468. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.